GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE FOR HANDICRAFTS
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to set up `Special Economic Zone (SEZ)` for the export of handicrafts and related products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total value of handicrafts and related products exported during the year 2003-04 and till date;

(d) whether special efforts have been made to increase the export of said products during the current year;

(e) whether the said export has been made at lesser rate as compared to the previous year; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a)& (b) : The Special Economic Zones(SEZs) scheme provides for setting up of multi-product or sector-specific SEZs in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments. On the basis of proposals received, the following three SEZs have been approved for export of handicrafts, which are under implementation:- Location Name of the Developer Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) U.P State Industrial Development Corporation Limited. Jodhpur (Rajasthan) Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited. Gautam Budh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh) Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

(c) to (f): The exports of handicrafts have reached a level of Rs.10,465.14 crores during 2003-04 representing a growth of 25.43% in rupee terms and 34.67% in dollar terms. Exports during 2004-05 (April-January) have touched Rs.10,303.88 crores witnessing a growth of 29.01% in rupee terms and 33.73% in dollar terms. Special efforts which have been made to increase the export of handicrafts during the current year by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts include setting up of India Exposition Mart at Greater Noida for round the clock international marketing (which is under implementation), aggressive international marketing project for North Eastern States and integrated international market project for Tripura and setting up of National Centre for photo and picture framing technology at Saharanpur and Jodhpur. Opening of showrooms and warehouses in USA and European Union is also envisaged for promoting exports of handcrafts.